NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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Dear Fellow Workers:

Many of you are assuming new duties; others of you are continuing to serve in the same capacity as last year. To one and all, greetings and good wishes.

Nationally, a new administration is beginning its work. It takes up the task in a spirit of deep seriousness and with a sense of dedication to a great cause. No theme of a few words can express our purpose, for it is vast; we must measure up to the needs of the day and hour, yet must ever be looking beyond the present to what we are determined shall be a brighter future. The demands made upon parent-teacher workers will probably increase rather than diminish, and this at a time when they are hedged about with handicaps — when it is difficult to hold meetings in many places and when the pressure of war jobs leaves fewer members to carry on the work. Let us each remember that we cannot do everything asked of us; that our task has always been to care for the welfare of children and youth "in home, school, church, and community."

Children can so easily become casualties of war, and they are just that in too many instances today. It is not that they are being killed or maimed by bombs and bullets. Their enemies are disrupted home life and lack of proper supervision by parents; lack of adult leadership in wholesome recreation; the insecurity, tensions, and excitements of war; the pressure for increased numbers of them to leave school and go to work at jobs that pay well now but will leave them untrained for later years; lowering of educational standards and opportunities; lessened medical and health services; poor housing and bad environment. These and other social influences are maiming and crippling children physically, mentally, and spiritually at an increasing rate — a rate that is alarming to all who have the country's future welfare at heart.

Our men are fighting overseas, and the theme song of all of them is "Keep the Home Fires Burning." We, at home, have to fight the enemies in our midst, which undermine all that the word "home" means to our men. They are offering their lives to protect their homes; we must not let them down. Parent-teacher work is truly fighting on the home front; let us accept it as such, prepare for action, and meet these enemies wherever we find them.

With all good wishes to you, wherever you are and whatever you are doing, I am

Sincerely yours,

Jeanette A. Hastings

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

WITH COURAGE UNLIMITED

News from our Hawaii Congress of Parents and Teachers tells us that our members there are meeting in convention on June 14. They chose for their convention theme *Hawaii's Schools of Tomorrow.* We salute these brave, undaunted parent-teacher members in our far-off state branch. Their desire to keep their home, school, and child welfare programs functioning in the face of the hazards and hardships of war is indeed a challenge to us on the mainland. Greetings have been sent by cable and clipper ship in the hope that the message will reach them for their convention.

"FOR THIS WE FIGHT"

An important series of broadcasts, beginning June 5 at 7:00-7:30 p.m. EWT, will continue every Saturday for twenty-six weeks over NBC and its independent affiliated stations. Outstanding Americans representing business, labor, agriculture, science, and education will participate. The title of the series is "For This We Fight."

The cooperation of the parent-teacher organization has been requested in publicizing this series, which is a joint offering of NBC's Inter-American University of the Air, the Twentieth Century Fund, and the Commission to Study the Organization of Peace.

RURAL COMMUNITIES PLAN FOR TOMORROW

A plan for rural community meetings to be held from August 9 to August 13 is also being promoted by the Commission to Study the Organization of Peace. The vital importance of the rural community as a participant in postwar planning is thought to need greater emphasis. Rural groups are urged to plan five meetings for this period. "The meetings need not be large," says the Commission. "Get together ten or more interested people, and discuss

Control of War: Peace on Earth
Law and Justice: That Righteousness May Prevail
Interdependence: And Everyone Members One of Another
Responsibility: Am I my Brother's Keeper?
United Nations: Brotherhood of Man

NATIONAL CAR-SHARING PROGRAM

To meet some of the difficulties of wartime transportation, the Office of Civilian Defense and the Office of Price Administration are stepping up the car-sharing program. The cooperation of the parent-teacher organization is sought in (1) offering space where car-sharing exchanges may be set up; (2) promoting the establishment of "pickup stations"; (3) helping to publicize the car-sharing program in the local community; and (4) holding discussions or sponsoring addresses on the importance of car conservation in wartime.

Introducing Our New Officers

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FOR the first time in its history, officers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers were elected by mail. This procedure was necessary because of the cancellation of the annual convention to comply with travel restrictions occasioned by the war. On April 25, 1943, official ballots were mailed to accredited delegates of the fifty state branches representing the membership of 2,612,345. All votes had to be in the National Office by six p.m. on May 11, 1943. The tellers, Mrs. Clifford F. Thompson, chairman; Mrs. Frederick Conkle; Mrs. Robert A. Long; Mrs. James C. Parker; Mrs. Mark Pierce; Mrs. Albert L. Gardner; and Mrs. Gail Powell, assisted by the parliamentarian, Mrs. Q. C. English, worked all night to count the votes — the largest number ever cast in a National Congress election. On the morning of May 12, 1943, the following persons were declared elected:

President—Mrs. William A. Hastings, Madison, Wisconsin

First Vice-President—Mrs. L. W. Hughes, Arlington, Tennessee

Secretary—Mrs. H. S. Klein, Huntington, West Virginia

Treasurer—Mr. J. W. Faust, East Orange, New Jersey

The following short biographical sketches of these newly elected officers will give you a few highlights of their careers in the service of children and youth. All are well qualified by training, experience, and sincerity of purpose to guide the destinies of our great organization through the problems and complexities of a wartime era.

MRS. WILLIAM A. HASTINGS

Mrs. William A. Hastings, of Madison, Wisconsin, has a long record of service to the parent-teacher movement. She has served as president of the Wisconsin Congress, of the Madison council, and of her local association, and as chairman of many parent-teacher committees.

As president of the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, Mrs. Hastings became a member of the National Board of Managers in 1933, serving as state president for two two-year terms. In 1937 she was elected national vice-president from Region IV, which includes Wisconsin, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, thereby becoming a member of the National Executive Committee. At the expiration of her term in 1939, she accepted the chairmanship of the committee on Character Education, and served in this capacity until 1940, when she was elected first vice-president and aide to the president.

Mrs. Hastings also participates in the activities of many other groups in her city and state. She is an active member of the Joint Committee on Education in Wisconsin, having served as its chairman during 1940-42. She is especially interested in religious education and is very active in its promotion.

Mrs. Hastings holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Wisconsin and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

She is the mother of two sons.

MRS. L. W. HUGHES

Mrs. L. W. Hughes, prior to her election as first vice-president, served as chairman of the Membership committee of the Congress.

Formerly president of the Tennessee Congress of Parents and Teachers, Mrs. Hughes has been a leader in educational circles of her state for many years. She was formerly superintendent of schools of Shelby County, Tennessee, and was president of the State Public School Officers Association and of the Western Section of the State Teachers Association. She was a member of the National Advisory Committee on Education from 1929 to 1931.

Mrs. Hughes' parent-teacher experience has included the presidency of the Shelby County Council and numerous offices in local, council, and state Congress work. She was a state vice-president and state parliamentarian, and was president of the State Presidents' Conference in the National Congress in 1937-38.

Mrs. Hughes has two sons.

MRS. H. S. KLEIN

Mrs. H. S. Klein's service to the state and national organizations includes both executive and editorial work. From 1939 to 1942 she was president of her state congress and editor of the *West Virginia Parent-Teacher*. Prior to that she was P.T.A. council president of Huntington, Publicity chairman, and treasurer of a local P.T.A. She also serves the state congress as state board member in charge of the state office and extension work.

Active in state, county, and community affairs, she has served as president of her county Crippled Children's Society, as secretary of her county Safety Council, as a member of the county board of directors of the American Red Cross, and was for four years a volunteer worker with the Huntington Family Welfare Society. The mother of two sons, she is a member of the Huntington Mothers' Club.

Mrs. Klein was educated at Cardome Academy, Georgetown, Kentucky; at Clarion State Normal School, Clarion, Pennsylvania; and at Marshall College, Huntington, where she specialized in music and sociology.

J. W. FAUST

Mr. J. W. Faust, national chairman of the committee on Recreation of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers since 1925, brings a wealth of experience to the office of treasurer.

With a background of academic training at Johns Hopkins, he also attended the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, and the Schenectady Conservatory. Before taking up his present work as district representative of the National Recreation Association, he was General Secretary of the Associated Charities, Orange, New Jersey, and of the Associated Charities of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was also Assistant Manager of the Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Atlantic Divisions, respectively, of the American Red Cross.

Special interests, in addition to his work for the National Congress, include membership in the Committee on the Preschool Child of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection; in the American Association of Social Workers; in the New Jersey Conference on Adult Education; and in the New Jersey Conference of Social Work.

Mr. Faust has six children.

NOTES FROM THE *National Board* MEETING

THE National Board of Managers met in Chicago in May to discuss wartime problems of immediate concern to the 2,612,345 members of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. The Board is made up of the thirteen national officers, twenty-eight national chairmen, fifty state presidents, and the president of the *National Parent-Teacher* Magazine. In spite of wartime emergencies and transportation difficulties only nine members of the Board were unable to attend the conference.

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Before the Board convened as a whole to transact the business of the organization, special committees composed of members of the Executive Committee, the national chairmen's group, and state presidents studied and discussed various plans for making the parent-teacher war program still more effective in terms of service to America's children.

Workshops

Workshops were set up to consider the following topics:

- The Army's educational program
- Winning the war on the nutrition front
- The menace of child labor
- The cause and extent of juvenile delinquency

Specialists from Government agencies and educational organizations cooperated in conducting the workshops and brought to the attention of the Board members facts and information essential to a serious and realistic consideration of wartime problems and trends. Quotations from the workshop addresses will be found in the June issue of the *National Parent-Teacher* Magazine. The addresses in full will be published in the annual *Proceedings* of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, which will come off press in September.

Added to Legislative Program

The legislative program of the Congress was amended to contain the following recommendation:

Federal Aid for Education — Support of Federal appropriations to equalize educational opportunity among and within the several states and emergency funds to increase teachers' salaries to meet the unprecedented loss of teachers to higher paid occupations in war industries, as provided in S.637; greater emphasis in the future on the problem of equalization.

The program committee on legislation also recommended, and the Board approved, the addition of the following new items to the legislative program:

- Provision of day care of children of working mothers, as provided in the Thomas bill, S.1130
- Support of the general trend toward grade labeling and opposition to the sale of products that cannot be packed by grade
- Federal appropriations to assist in continuing the school lunch program
- Support of the continuance of the Farm Security Administration, which involves continuation of the school lunch program.

Child Labor and Juvenile Delinquency

During the conference special consideration was given to problems affecting juvenile delinquency and the lowering of child labor standards, and the following recommendation, presented by the chairman of the committee on Juvenile Protection, was presented and adopted:

"In order to meet present needs of war emergencies, a trend toward lowering child labor standards is already evident; and it is recommended by the Juvenile Protection Committee that: All state congresses be especially vigilant at this time regarding any weakening of established child labor standards within their respective states, and whenever a lowering of standards appears to be inevitable every effort should be made to insure that it is confined to the duration of the war and that the established standards are not jeopardized.

"The committee further recommends that state congresses familiarize themselves with and publicize the pamphlet, 'Policy on Employment of Youth under 18 Years of Age,' promulgated by the War Manpower Commission, which discusses in detail safeguards particularly applicable to the wartime employment of youth. This pamphlet may be obtained from the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

"The committee also recommends that a copy of this resolution be sent to Miss Katharine Lenroot of the Children's Bureau."

Conferences of Presidents and Chairmen

The State Presidents' Conference, an important feature at all meetings of the National Board, was conducted for the first time as a symposium panel. Attention was directed to four major subjects: Membership, attendance at state and local meetings, transportation problems arising from gasoline rationing, and progress made in carrying forward wartime projects.

The National Chairmen's Conference, devoted its time to discussion of the following questions:

- *How is the wartime service of the Congress channeled through the committee work?*
- *How can each committee contribute to the postwar program of the Congress?*
- *How are the national standing committees related to each other in objectives and procedures?*

Both of the foregoing conference groups elected new officers for the ensuing year. The officers are:

State Presidents' Conference — Mrs. F. R. Kenison, Iowa, chairman; Mrs. Leonard G. Twitchell, New Jersey, vice-chairman; Mrs. Jack M. Little, Texas, secretary.

National Chairmen's Conference — Mrs. Harry M. Mulberry, Illinois, chairman; Mrs. Gertrude E. Flyte, South Dakota, secretary.

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Owing to the war, the need to streamline the Board Meeting was imperative. All conferences and sessions were tightly scheduled. Only one social event was featured, a board dinner in honor of Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, past president of the Congress, who lives in a suburb near Chicago.

At this dinner the newly elected president, Mrs. William Hastings, was presented with a national life membership by her husband, who had come from Madison, Wisconsin, to be present when his wife was installed. In introducing Mr. Hastings, Mrs. Kletzer, the retiring president, stated that his attendance at the dinner was a symbol of the support and loyalty extended to the organization by millions of husbands and fathers.

Space in the *Bulletin* does not permit a detailed report of all that was said and done at this important wartime conference. Other channels of the organization will be utilized to bring the proceedings and findings to the attention of all leaders and members everywhere.

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NATIONAL RADIO SCRIPT SERVICE

HAS YOUR P.T.A. investigated local broadcasting facilities to discover the best ways of making use of the newest service offered by the National Congress to councils and local units?

The Radio Script Service was inaugurated in January of this year. Its purpose is to supply sound and challenging parent-teacher material for local broadcasting. All scripts are carefully planned for production by inexperienced, nonprofessional participants. Fifteen-minute panel discussions and short flash announcements are offered.

Many local broadcasting stations have free time available and will be open to approach by parent-teacher Radio chairmen if they can be assured of an interesting, worth-while program. Radio today is one of the foremost of all educative forces; its possibilities in parent-teacher work are unlimited.

A Growing Supply

A number of scripts are now ready and available. They call for no more than four discussants. Some of the titles are: *Can Any Good Come Out of the War? War Changes Things for Children; Four Brakes on War Marriages; Keep the Home Fires Bright; Money Makes the Mare Go, But It Goes Too; The Federal Government and Education;* and *Should Children Play at War?* New titles are constantly being added, some of the scripts being prepared at the National Office and some by university classes in radio writing. Scripts used by state congresses are also being considered and adapted for inclusion. As the work progresses, there will develop an extensive and varied script library for parent-teacher use.

Easy to Obtain—Simple to Employ

A sample copy of each script is filed with the state Radio chairman. Two copies of each script are available free—one for the parent-teacher worker responsible for the program, and one for the local radio station. Additional copies are 10c and may be ordered from the National Office. If your community has even a small broadcasting station, this service offers your P.T.A. an unparalleled opportunity to help carry the parent-teacher program and message into homes far and wide.

Have You Brought Your P.T.A. Bookshelf up to date? Is There a Copy of "Community Life in a Democracy" on it?

Wanted...

28,000 MEN AND WOMEN

• *Especially Interested in Spreading Knowledge Essential to the Welfare of Children*

IN WARTIME or in peacetime, the welfare of a nation's children is of utmost importance. It transcends all else in the realm of national values, for if a nation is to thrive it must conserve its human resources.

In the United States, 2,612,345 men and women are enlisted in a great volunteer army pledged to care for and to protect America's children. This citizen group is known nationally as the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and locally as the P.T.A.

These millions of active, consecrated workers need the inspiration, guidance, wisdom, and foresight imparted through the messages and articles in their official magazine, the *National Parent-Teacher.* It will bring them the knowledge essential to the welfare, protection, and education of the children in whose interests they are organized. Reliably informed by it on issues affecting the well-being of children, they will be able to make a telling and dramatic contribution to our total parent-teacher effort.

TO BRING this magazine properly before these 2,612,345 zealous citizens, there is needed, and needed at once, an army within this great army. There is needed a body of 28,000 men and women whose efforts will be directed toward making known to the parents of America the merits of the *National Parent-Teacher.* By doing just this one thing, Magazine workers will be making a contribution to the progress of civilization that cannot possibly be surpassed in any other field of parent-teacher endeavor. They will be helping to preserve the family as a democratic social unit.

This, then, is a call, an urgent call, to local parent-teacher presidents, to recruit without delay a person in each P.T.A. who will serve as National Parent-Teacher Magazine chairman for the year 1943-44.

Active, energetic, dynamic members are asking for an opportunity to render some patriotic service to their country. They are looking for work that will make them feel that they are being of use to their country. They want to serve a good cause on a worth-while committee. Give them the *National Parent-Teacher* to promote!

MRS. JAMES FITTS HILL, *President*
National Parent-Teacher Magazine

NEW STUDY COURSES

THE *National Parent-Teacher,* beginning with the September issue, will present two well-timed study courses dealing with current problems of family life. In both the influence of the war will be strongly emphasized, in order to help parents and teachers "slant" their activities toward the modifications made necessary by wartime conditions.

As is customary, one course will cover the problems and needs of the preschool child, and the other will be concerned with the family as a whole. The preschool course is entitled **"Basic Training for the Toddler."** Beginnings in health, emotional stability, character development, and the building up of democratic attitudes will be discussed, each by an expert in the field. The importance of early guidance will receive emphasis throughout the course.

The study course in family living, **"The Family's Stake in Freedom,"** deals, as its title indicates, with the heightening of family responsibility in numerous areas in response to the demands of war. The family council will be explained and strongly advocated as one of the best devices for early instruction in democracy. Problems of discipline, family harmony, cooperative work, every-member participation, and efficient living will be covered.

Parent-Teacher study groups are advised to plan now for the inclusion of these two important courses in their programs of work for the coming year.